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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,422	11/27/2001	Anne Louise Cordia	U 013734-4	2131

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EXAMINER

RAMIREZ, RAMON O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/995,422

Applicant(s)

CORDIA, ANNE LOUISE

Examiner

RAMON O. RAMIREZ

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 45, 46 and 48-78 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 45, 46, 48, 49, 51-55, 63-68 and 70-78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 50, 56-62 and 69 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/7/05
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

This is the fourth Office Action corresponding to amendment filed Feb 23, 2005. The application contains 33 claims. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 48, 49 and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These claims depend from cancelled claim 47.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 45, 46, 51-55, 63, 64-68, 70-75, 76, 77 and 78 are under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulze (Pat No 1,386,078).

The patent to Schulze shows an accessory for a container (plate) comprising first and second clamping members, the first clamping member (2) comprising a plurality of extending portions (2, 2) defining first and second clamping surfaces (areas contacting the plate), the second clamping member (1) defining a third clamping surface (area contacting the plate); the third clamping surface disposed between the first and second clamping surfaces (Figs 1 and 3), with each of the extending portions extending away from the vertical axis of the second clamping member. The second clamping member

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comprising a holder having third (6) and fourth (8) clamping surfaces holding an object.

As to the display means recited for example in claim 63, any of the flat surfaces shown by Schulze in Figs 1 and 3, can be considered as a means for displaying information since they are capable of receiving written information, directly (writing on) or indirectly (like a card). As to claim 53, Fig 2 of Schulze shows the first and second clamping members forming a U-shaped defining a space for receiving the container. The material from which the device is made is considered an obvious matter of engineering having no patentable significance. The deformation of the members of the instant invention is inherently to the material from which the device is made.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 50, 56-62 and 69 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 49 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments are mostly address to the container per se, and to the elastic deformation of the extending portions. The container (as recited in claim 45) is not a positive element of the combination; the device shown by Shultze discloses a container capable of supporting liquid. As to the elastically deformable portions, the instant specification makes reference to it on page 8, lines 9 and 10, and only states the clamping member can elastically deform to some extent. As indicated in the above rejection, this deformation is inherent from the material from which the device is being made. Applicant also points-out that Schulze does not show clamping surfaces "pressed" against the container. Schulze shows clamping surfaces contacting the container surfaces, this reads on the claims. If Applicant means the clamping member is applying pressure to the surfaces, Schulze would also meet this, since if not, the device would fall-off from the container.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAMON O. RAMIREZ whose telephone number is (703) 308-0748 (after April 7 2005, the phone number would be (571) 272-6821). The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY, IST FRIDAY OFF.

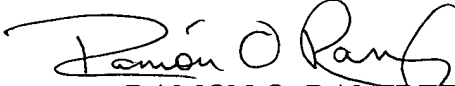
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, LESLIE BRAUN can be reached on (703) 308-2156 (after April 7, 2005, the phone number would be (571) 272-6815).

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ROR
March 28, 2005


RAMON O. RAMIREZ
Primary Examiner
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